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Jacksonville, FL 32224**

January 25, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft  
US Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20530

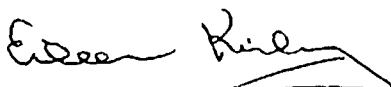
Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

I am writing in order to express my relief over the settlement with Microsoft. I have waited three long years in order for this thing to finally be over and it seems as if the end is in sight. I hope that the federal settlement goes forward so that we can all put this thing behind us.

Microsoft has sacrificed much in order to reach an acceptable settlement with the Department of Justice and I hope that people will realize and respect that. They have offered to forgo many of their intellectual property rights and license out software to their competitors. They will also give competitors some say in how computer manufactures can configure their product. This means that they stand to lose a substantial portion of their profits as well as aiding their competitors in contending against Microsoft's products.

Microsoft is willing to do this in order to end this case once and for all. I hope that they will be allowed to do so and that this settlement will mean an end to any more action at the federal level.

Sincerely,

  
Eileen Kirby